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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

20874 7590 09/03/2009

MARIAMA MULDOON BLASIAK & SULLIVAN LLP
250 SOUTH CLINTON STREET
SUITE 300
SYRACUSE, NY 13202

EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, TUAN VAN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3731	

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,496	10/31/2003	Steven L. Jacques	1564,003	9597

TITLE OF INVENTION: LOW PROFILE SHORT TAPERED TIP CATHETER

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	12/03/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

20874 7590 09/03/2009

MARIJUA MULDOON BLASIAK & SULLIVAN LLP
250 SOUTH CLINTON STREET
SUITE 300
SYRACUSE, NY 13202

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	12/03/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
NGUYEN, TUAN VAN	3731	606-047000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).	2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.	1_____
<input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.	2_____
	3_____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE _____

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY) _____

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:	4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies _____	<input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).
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NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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20874	7590	09/03/2009		EXAMINER
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SUITE 300				3731
SYRACUSE, NY 13202				PAPER NUMBER
				DATE MAILED: 09/03/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 139 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 139 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/698,496	JACQUES, STEVEN L.
	Examiner TUAN V. NGUYEN	Art Unit 3731

All Participants:

Status of Application: _____

(1) TUAN V. NGUYEN.

(3) _____.

(2) Timothy D. Evans.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 25 August 2009

Time: _____

Type of Interview:

Telephonic
 Video Conference
 Personal (Copy given to: Applicant Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: Yes No

If Yes, provide a brief description: _____.

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:

None

Claims discussed:

14 and 26

Prior art documents discussed:

None

Part II.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

On 8/25/2009 a telephone call was made to Mr. Timothy Evans to propose an examiner's amendment to put the present application in condition for allowance. Mr. Timothy Evans agrees with the proposal.

Part III.

It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.
 It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

/Tuan V Nguyen/
 Examiner, Art Unit 3731

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 10/698,496	Applicant(s) JACQUES, STEVEN L.
	Examiner TUAN V. NGUYEN	Art Unit 3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 08/07/09 and 08/25/09.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 14,16-19,22-24 and 26-33.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date see attachment.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Timothy D. Evans on August 25, 2009.

Claim 15 has been cancelled. Claims 14, 16, 17, 26, and 29 have been amended as follow:

14. A catheter comprising:

a shaft comprising proximal and distal ends;

a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced;

a distal terminus;

an untapered length of shaft positioned adjacent the tapered portion opposite the distal terminus;

two or more lumens, at least one of which is sized to receive a 0.035 inch guidewire, the lumens spaced apart from one another such that a periphery of one lumen is spaced apart from a periphery of another lumen by a predetermined distance in the untapered length, a corresponding distance between the periphery of said one lumen and the periphery of said another lumen in the

tapered portion being different from the predetermined distance in the untapered portion; and

a cutting wire extending through at least a portion of one of the lumens and terminating within the tip,

wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter measuring less than approximately 0.063 inch; and

wherein the tapered portion of the tip has a length of approximately 3 millimeters or less.

16. A catheter as defined in claim ~~45~~ 14, wherein the cutting wire exits the lumen along a portion of the shaft and reenters the lumen through a distal skive hole in the untapered length of the shaft;

a length between the distal skive hole and the distal terminus is approximately 5 millimeters or less; and

the tapered portion is positioned between the skive hole and the distal terminus.

17. A catheter as defined in claim ~~45~~ 14, further comprising a radiopaque marker within the tip.

26. A catheter comprising:

a shaft comprising proximal and distal ends;

a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced;

a distal terminus;

an untapered length of shaft adjacent the tapered portion opposite the distal terminus; and

two or more lumens, at least one of which is sized to receive a 0.035 inch guidewire, the lumens being spaced apart from one another such that a periphery of one lumen is spaced apart from a periphery of another lumen by a predetermined distance in the untapered length, a corresponding distance between the periphery of said one lumen and the periphery of said another lumen in the tapered portion being different from the predetermined distance; and

a cutting wire extending through at least a portion of one of the lumens and terminating within the tip,

wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter within the range of 0.055 inch to 0.063 inch; and

wherein the tapered portion of the tip has a length within the range of 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm.

29. A catheter as defined in claim 45 14, wherein the cutting wire exits the lumen along a portion of the shaft and reenters the lumen through a distal skive hole in the untapered length of the shaft;

a length between the distal skive hole and the distal terminus is within the range of 4.5 to 6 mm; and

the tapered portion is positioned between the skive hole and the distal terminus.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not appear to disclose or suggest a motivation to combine a sphincterotome, comprising, *inter alia*,

a catheter shaft, a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced; the tip includes at least two lumens and a distal terminus; a cutting wire extending through at least a portion of one of the lumens and terminating within the tip, **especially**, the lumens spaced apart from one another such that a periphery of one lumen is spaced apart from a periphery of another lumen by a predetermined distance in the untapered length, a corresponding distance between the periphery of said one lumen and the periphery of said another lumen in the tapered portion being different from the predetermined distance in the untapered portion; and wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter measuring less than approximately 0.063 inch; and wherein the tapered portion of the tip has a length of approximately 3 millimeters or less.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN V. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AnhTuan Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731
8/28/09